

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**San Jose Stage Company & PlayGround
Present A World Premiere
*“Lolita Roadtrip” by Trevor Allen***

Co-Presented with Playground-San Francisco and San Jose Stage Company

San Jose, CA – March 18, 2011 --- San Jose, Calif.

San Jose Stage Company, in conjunction with Playground-San Francisco, will present a World Premiere by playwright Trevor Allen, ‘Lolita Roadtrip,’ opening April 6.

Three years ago Playground-San Francisco, the Bay Area’s leading playwright incubator, commissioned Trevor Allen’s “Lolita Roadtrip.” The idea for the play is based upon Vladimir Nabokov’s 1941 journey from New York to California to take a teaching position at Stanford. He traveled with his wife, Vera, and son, Dmitri. Nabokov identified a previously unknown subspecies of Lepidoptera in the Grand Canyon during this journey. It is told through the eyes of a young woman named Julia, who recreates the trip in a modern story.

San Jose Stage Company is the first recipient of a grant from the PlayGround’s New Play Production Fund, launched to support Bay Area productions. Originally commissioned and developed by PlayGround Artistic Director, Jim Kleinmann of San Francisco, “Lolita Roadtrip” is a world premiere at the San Jose Stage Company in downtown San Jose.

As Randall King, Artistic Director of San Jose Stage told Chad Jones of theaterdogs.net, published by Theatre Bay Area’s Callboard Magazine, producing new works is “prohibitive and puts a nonprofit in potential peril at the box office...Money doesn’t talk. It swears! PlayGround removed that profanity from the Stage Company budget, and their support of the local playwright gives a buffer to relieve that financial pressure. The \$15,000 grant is a tremendous amount of production budget for a theatre our size, and it will be used to great effect.” San Jose Stage Company is well known for its commitment to employ local artists, and “Lolita Roadtrip” is no exception.

The cast of “Lolita Roadtrip” includes Bay Area veteran actor Julian López-Morillas*, as well as Stacy Ross*, Chloë Bronzan* and Patrick Alparone*.

Lead character Julia (Chloë Bronzan), a rebellious Stanford graduate student researching her thesis, and Danny (Patrick Alparone), a hitch-hiking teenaged runaway she picks up, retrace the steps of Vladimir Nabokov’s actual 1941 roadtrip from New York to Stanford. This darkly comic play follows their cross-country adventures, while they confront their own dark pasts.

“Lolita Roadtrip” marks the second World Premiere by Trevor Allen at San Jose Stage

Company in San José, following his 2005 hit “Tenders in the Fog.”

“Lolita Roadtrip” is directed by Lee Sankowich, former Artistic Director of the Marin Theatre Company. Cliff Caruthers is the Sound Designer, Giulio Perrone is the Set Designer, Maurice Vercoutere is the Lighting Designer and Michele Wynne is the Costume Designer. Joanna Hobbs* is the Stage Manager.

Trevor Allen is an award-winning playwright born and raised in San José who began his theatrical interest at Oak Grove High School. He has also been commissioned by the San Jose Repertory Theatre to write “Valley of Sand” about Silicon Valley.

“Besides a brief stint at UCLA for theatre I spent half my life there and most of my family lives there,” said Allen. “Now having spent the better part of two decades living and working in San Francisco, it is really interesting to return to my hometown as a playwright and have my words come to life there. This new production is truly like a homecoming for me.”

NOTE: For the lepidopterists in the crowd, the *Cylioópsis Pertepída Dorotheá* is the Latin genus and species of the butterfly that Nabokov found. Said Trevor Allen in an interview in 2010, “It is brown in color rather than pale blue, his fondness for the blues is, of course, well known.” The holotype resides in the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

The Stage is located at 490 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

“Lolita Roadtrip” previews Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 PM and again Friday, April 8 at 8 PM. The Opening Gala is Saturday, April 9 at 8 PM. Performances continue Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 PM, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM and Sundays at 2 PM through May 1, 2011. Tickets range from \$20 - \$45. For more information and to purchase tickets www.thestage.org or call the Box Office at 408.283. 7142.

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**Member of Actors’ Equity Association*

About San Jose Stage Company:

Founded in 1983, San Jose Stage Company is recognized as The Bay Area's Premiere Off-Broadway Theatre, and known for its devotion to new and cutting-edge work and for its commitment to showcasing high-quality local talent. In 1986, San Jose Stage Company set precedence as the first arts organization to negotiate and receive support from the Redevelopment Agency and the City of San Jose when over \$500,000 was appropriated in support of the development of a new 200-seat theatre featuring a 3/4-thrust stage, which opened in 1990. Now in its 28th Season, SJSC continues to center its operations in this facility and has successfully produced over 135 productions and premiered 44 new works, including 11 world premieres and is acclaimed for maintaining high artistic standards, investing in local talent and supporting the region’s community of working artists while taking artistic risks. In addition to its core programming, San Jose Stage Company offers five core education and outreach programs and has housed over 200 independent performance groups. San Jose Stage Company is a vital force in the community and has earned a reputation for artistic excellence by providing high-quality, edgy theatrical experiences that engage,

educate and provoke audiences. San Jose Stage Company serves an audience base of 25,000 and is recognized as a leader in the arts for a theatre of its size. For more information www.thestage.org

About PlayGround:

PlayGround is the Bay Area's leading playwright incubator. Founded in 1994, PlayGround creates community by nurturing collaboration between early career playwrights and established professional directors and actors. Led by co-founder and Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann, PlayGround has developed more than 570 short plays by 160 Bay Area writers and, since 2002, has commissioned and developed 35 new full-length plays, including Trevor Allen's "Tenders in the Fog", "Lolita Roadtrip" and his new play, "Valley of Sand", a co-commission with San Jose Repertory Theatre. For more information, visit www.playground-sf.org.

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